29th July 1952]

Government Hospital, Tirupati.

* 287 *Q.*—SRI K. ADIKESAVALU NAIDU : Will the Hon. Minister for Health be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to increase the accommodation by addition to the buildings of and also increase in the number of beds in the Tirupati Government Hospital?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (1) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The Government have sanctioned the construction of a maternity ward of 16 beds in the hospital.

"(2) As regards the second part of the question the present sanctioned bed strength of the hospital is 31. The bed strength will be increased appropriately when the new buildings are completed and are ready for occupation. The Government will not issue orders increasing the bed strength of the hospital in advance of the completion of the buildings as the increase of bed strength carries with it automatically increase in diet charges and other recurring expenditure as well as claims for employment of increased staff."

Reduction in the daily batta of policemen.

* 288 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the daily batta of policemen has been reduced from Re. 1–4–0 to annas 12; and

(*b*) if the answer to clause (*a*) is in the affirmative, what is the reason for the reduction?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" (*a*) Constables fall under non-gazetted officers on a pay of Rs. 30 to 44, i.e., Grade XI. The travelling allowance, including daily allowance, admissible to all Government servants, including the police, is given in Annexure I to Part II of the Madras Travelling Allowance Rules, and any hon. Member who wants to find out what daily allowance or travelling allowance is admissible to any class of Government servants can get the information by a reference to that Annexure.

" There has been no reduction since 1949 when the temporary 50 per cent increase was made permanent.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" I am really surprised at the answer to this question, Sir."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" But the hon. Member who put the question is not surprised."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" He need not be surprised; I am surprised. The question is what exactly is the daily batta given

to the policeman and whether the Government are going to increase it, since it is as low as annas twelve a day which is not at all enough for his food expenses? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I am aware of the hon. Member's great interest in the police constables. Non-gazetted officers drawing a pay of Rs. 30 to 44, come under Grade XI. Their pay comes to about a rupee a day. The batta of annas twelve is therefore fair, and for days spent on railway journeys outside the limits of the Presidency, there is an enhanced rate of daily allowance. If this is not enough we shall consider the matter but it is not a small matter; even if the batta be raised to one rupee, the total bill under this head would be raised enormously."

King George Hospital, Visakhapatnam.

* 289 Q.—SRI M. VEERABHADRAM : Will the Hon· the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) what is the present number of beds in King George Hospital, Visakhapatnam; and

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the number of beds this year?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) The sanctioned bed strength is 794.

" (b) There is no proposal before the Government for a further increase in the bed strength of the hospital."

11–10 a.m. SRI M. VEERABHADRAM :—" Will the Hon. Minister tell us how is it that, when the General Hospital in Madras was having 845 beds in 1946 for an average daily attendance of 1,091, the bed strength was increased to 887 when the average daily attendance increased to 1,171, while in the King George Hospital, Visakhapatnam, which had an increase in daily attendance from 702 in 1946 to 759·4 in 1950, the bed strength remains constant? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The bed strength of the Andhra Medical College Hospital was till recently 700. It was raised to 794 in February last, consequent on the completion of one of the medical wards. Now, other buildings are under construction. Two medical wards will be added, each with 80 beds."

SRI K. GOVINDA RAO :—" May I know whether there was a proposal, sometime back that the number of beds should be increased to 1,000 and when the Government propose to give effect to that proposal? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have already said that, with the completion of two medical ward buildings, the number will be increased."